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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 17, 2015

(CPD # 15-28607-OF)

CONCORD, NH – On July 13, 2015 Concord Police Officers responded to 19 Thorndike Street to investigate an anonymous Concord Regional Crimeline tip regarding drug activity at that address. Specifically, the tip alleged that the residents were manufacturing and distributing psilocybin (hallucinogenic) mushrooms. The tip also included concern that the illegal drug activity was taking place in the presence of young children.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with a neighbor who reported smelling the odor of burnt marijuana coming from the first floor apartment. In addition, it was also reported that there was frequently a high volume of pedestrian traffic into and out of the apartment. Officers learned that the children in question were away and would not return until the following week.

Detectives were assigned to investigate this matter and learned that the residence at 19 Thorndike Street had multiple exterior surveillance cameras. Information was also obtained to corroborate the report that multiple individuals would visit the apartment. Detectives also obtained corroborating statements to support the possibility that the children in question could be exposed to potentially hazardous drugs or ingredients used in the cultivation of psilocybin mushrooms. Detectives learned that two children, ages 8 and 4, reside in the apartment in question and would have had direct access to the drugs in question.

On July 14, 2015 Concord Police executed a search warrant of 19 Thorndike Street. Shortly after entering the apartment Detectives noticed a large pot of dark liquid on the stove, a large industrial style barrel containing liquid on the kitchen table, bags of soil for the growing of mushrooms, a container of grain and large sifting screens in the kitchen.

Detectives then discovered numerous boxes of laboratory equipment including glassware, growing lights and related laboratory equipment. Also in the basement were several containers with mushrooms and soil.

"Community Committed"

In one bedroom a large rack with twenty four trays of soil and what appeared to be mushrooms was located. There were several plastic containers that had been altered for the growing of mushrooms. There were large plastic containers that contained dried mushrooms.

The basement appeared to be set up for the cultivation of mushrooms on a significant scale. Overall, the interior of the apartment appeared to be set up for the production of psilocybin (hallucinogenic) mushrooms over a long period of time.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) New England Regional Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team was notified regarding concerns about the materials found inside the apartment. Upon arrival agents from the DEA determined that there was a large scale clandestine laboratory for the growing of psilocybin mushrooms inside the apartment. The DEA requested that the tenants of the other apartments in the building be evacuated for their safety until all items of concern could be removed and secured. The execution of the search warrant continued over the course of July 14th and 15th due to the scale of the operation.

The Concord City Department of Code Enforcement responded to the residence prior to the completion of the search warrant. They examined the apartment once all of the hazardous materials had been removed and cleared the residence for occupancy.

After the completion of the search warrant, detectives sought out and obtained arrest warrants for two of the residents of this apartment. They are as follows:



Derek Milioto, Age 32
19 Thorndike St.
Concord, NH 03301

ENDANGERING WELFARE OF CHILD/INCOMPETENT X2 (Mis A RSA 639:3)
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (Manufacturing, Fel B RSA 318-B:2,I)
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (Mis A RSA 318-B:2,I)



**Luke Robinson, Age 23
19 Thorndike St.
Concord, NH 03301**

**POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS/MANUFACTURING (Fel B RSA 318-B:2,I)
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (Mis A RSA 318-B:2,I)**

Both subjects turned themselves into police on 7/16/15. Milioto was ordered held on \$5,000 cash bail and Robinson was ordered held on \$2,000 cash bail. They will both be arraigned at the 6th Circuit – District Division – Concord (Concord District Court) this morning, July 17, 2015.

This is an ongoing investigation and additional charges and/or arrests may be forthcoming.

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